

regions should be employed to thoroughly explore their surroundings; specialists should be sent during the summer to study certain problems. In short, a few thousand dollars from an overflowing treasury could be made to yield an ample return in our better knowledge of one of the noblest and (in a public way) most neglected sciences.

OPEN LETTERS.

A Query.

Can any of the readers of the GAZETTE say whether the spores of *Marsilia* grown in the United States germinate readily? Having made several unsuccessful attempts last winter to grow the spores, I was informed by Professor Pfeffer that it is difficult to germinate spores grown in Germany, and that all accounts hitherto published have been made from spores imported from Australia. It would be interesting to know whether the same difficulty is met in the United States, and if so, what is the cause.

D. H. CAMPBELL.

Tübingen, July, 1887.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IN THE *Journal of Botany* for June Mr. Arthur Bennett presents a revision of the Australian species of *Potamogeton*, describing one new species.

THE SECOND EDITION of Strasburger's *Botanisches Practicum* has appeared in Germany.

Dr. W. ZOPF has been made Professor-extraordinary of Botany in the University of Halle.

Dr. G. BERTHOLD has been called to the professorship of Botany in the University of Göttingen.

SCARCELY more than a year has passed since the appearance of de Bary's *Vorlesungen über Bacterien*, yet a second and revised edition has been issued by Engelmann.

MR. ROBERT HESSLER, of Connerville, Ind., finds *Gaura coccinea* growing along the C., H. & I. R. R. near that place. His plant was very bushy and about fifteen inches high.

THE *West American Scientist* for June has an interesting article on the "Oaks of Southern and Lower California" by the editor. It is accompanied by a photograph of live-oaks.

DR. BYRON D. HALSTED, in *Agricultural Science*, has published a paper on the germination of cucurbitaceous plants.

PROF. L. H. BAILEY, JR., of Michigan Agricultural College, wants specimens from all parts of the country of *Carex grisea* (especially from the south and west), *C. triceps*, *C. arctata*, and *C. retrocurva*.